

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

JULY 1978 No 34 10p

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## GLC VANDALS

"GLC leave us alone! GLC makes people homeless: Carmel's Commune provides homes. Political refugees of the Tory GLC", claimed the banners of a group of Hackney men and women demonstrating outside the Courts of Justice in the Strand on Friday 23rd June.

Inside the court the GLC were trying to get a possession order to evict all fifty of them. They are residents of Carmel's Commune, a hostel in Lansdowne Drive and this was the latest round in the prolonged fight between them and the GLC.

In the last issue we told the story of the victory won by Carmel's Commune at the DHSS Tribunal on 12 April. On 15 June Carmel Carter had 31 summonses tipped from a postman's bag onto her desk. The GLC had at last moved to get possession of the houses, having failed by other less legal means. In a frantic effort to get legal aid, affidavits and all the papers together for her law lawyers in the one week given, she told us she did not know how much more she or the other could take.

While angry and anxious residents demonstrated outside the court

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The house in Ivydene Road, E8, vandalised by the GLC even though two people still lived there. Part of the harassment of Carmel's Commune.

Photo: Hammer

## Anti-Nazi meeting disrupted

The first meeting of the North West Hackney Anti-Nazi League on Monday 19 June was disrupted when invaded by an organised gang of twenty-five who arrived waving Anti-Nazi League membership cards as though they were worried that they could not be let in.

The first indication that the new arrivals were racists intent on disrupting the meeting came when someone in the meeting reminded those present of the racist attacks which have taken place in that area (see HPP March 1978). A number of the newly arrived gang sniggered and after that there was continual interruption of speakers.

One of the National Front members

claimed "We're here because we're anti-Nazis too", but during the meeting people present had their own chance to judge whether the NF are Nazis.

After someone had the cheek to ask a question of one of the NF members, he was told "Shut your mouth, or you'll get done, you fat slob."

Commenting on the murderers of Altab Ali (police are looking for two white and one West Indian youths) they said "We've got them doing OUR WORK for us now", an admission that he saw the work of the NF as being to go round performing racist attacks and murders.

"We don't care about Enoch Powell" - a remark that implied that Powell

isn't extreme enough. Their racism was also exposed when a local Jewish resident spoke and received a lot of abuse, and also when a donation from a local synagogue was announced, the jeering and animal-like baying from the NF members reminded me with a horrible jolt of the ways the Nazis used to manipulate the minds of their members.

Another NF member, when asked what he thought of some of the statements made by NF leaders said "I don't care much about the NF. I'm in Column 88". (Although this is very unlikely to be true, it shows what he aspires to...) Column 88 is the secret extremist group, responsible for recent parcel bombs, including one sent to a High Wycombe bus driver.

The NF claimed that the meeting was run by the Socialist Workers Party. That statement is not true. Groups represented at the meeting included Stoke Newington Council of Churches, Brownswood Labour Party, Hackney Youth Workers Group, Hackney National Union of Teachers, Hackney Communist Party, various local churches and synagogues, Hackney Women's Voice, Woodberry Down Tenants' Association and Hackney Socialist Workers Party.

Towards the end of the meeting it was suggested that we should produce a leaflet which answered the questions asked by the NF people there, such as "Blacks take up houses which could rehouse whites, don't they?"

But there are at least 3,500 empty properties in Hackney and in Glasgow there are 27,000 homeless people, but hardly any blacks living in Glasgow. But the NF members at the meeting declined to contribute to such a leaflet answering the questions which they themselves had asked at the meeting. Therefore only one conclusion can be drawn from this: that the NATIONAL FRONT EXISTS BY DEPENDING ON LIES.

There would almost certainly have been violence at the meeting but for the prompt arrival soon after the Nazis, of an assortment of anti-racists in response to hurried phone calls. Last to arrive were the police. The National Front were frustrated by not being able to break up the meeting by violence and responded in two ways. Firstly, on

their way back to Hoxton the gang of Nazis started to intimidate passers-by along Green Lanes, and the police were forced to intervene to protect three young black girls who were being threatened.

Secondly, three days after the meeting, the vicar of St Olaf's, Peter Jameson, received a threatening phone call saying that his church hall (where the meeting had been held) was going to be burned down.

The Nazis were probably frustrated also because they had failed in their task to stop the meeting. Although they did disrupt it, the following decisions were reached:

1. To pursue a campaign of education to show people that the National Front are Nazis, which will include leafletting and discussion meetings.
2. To organise a public paint-out of racist and fascist slogans.
3. To hold a multifaith service to proclaim our joint opposition to racism and fascism.

A collection after the meeting raised £23.

For further information contact:

North-West Hackney Anti-Nazi League, c/o Green Lanes Methodist Church, 32 Green Lanes, N16, tel 254 6218.

The new Hackney South and Shoreditch Anti-Nazi League carried out its first public paint-out of racist slogans in the Queensbridge and Haggerston areas on Saturday 24 June.

Mayor Sam Cohen painted out the first slogan under Middleton Road railway bridge and about fifty other people carried on for most of the afternoon.

They ended up back at the railway bridge with a ladder and painted out the huge slogan which has defiled the bridge for so long.

A public meeting is to be arranged in South Hackney soon. Meanwhile an East London Anti-Nazi League meeting is to be held at Poplar Civic Centre, Bow Road, on Tuesday 4 July at 7.30 pm.

For further information contact:

Hackney South and Shoreditch Anti-Nazi League, c/o Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, E2.

ANTI-NAZI OFFICE ARSON ATTACK - SEE PAGE 3.



Photo: Ernie Greenwood

The new Hackney South and Shoreditch Anti-Nazi League painting out fascist and racist slogans on Holly Street Estate.



# GLC VANDALS AND CARMEL'S COMMUNE

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their Counsel read through a mass of evidence in front of the GLC representatives and the Judge.

The Judge, who had been led to expect a straightforward possession order case with a simple decision on amount of time before eviction, said, at the end of it: "Why was this case brought before me in this way? I am not in a position to make a judgement. Why was there no adjournment?" The Counsel for Carmel's Commune said: "Oh, your Honour, I asked the complainant (GLC) twice to adjourn but they refused."

The case was adjourned either until the end of July or October. A breathing space and smiles all round for Carmel and all who live in the "Commune".

The GLC's Notice to Quit expired on 3 January. But the GLC itself took no action. Instead they put pressure on the DHSS to attempt to bankrupt the project, as a quieter way of finishing it off.

The DHSS officers in Bonhill Street under "instructions" had cut by £9.30 per week the Giros of those residents on Supplementary Benefit. The residents lodged an appeal on the grounds that the houses in Lansdowne Drive and Ivydene Road were being managed on exactly the same basis as before, providing four meals a day, light, heat, TV, cleaning, maintenance and administration. No change in management, they claimed, should mean no change in board and lodging charge.

## TEST-CASE

They had been advised to put forward one test case to be heard by the Appeals Tribunal. John Wilton was their test case, but twenty other residents lodged appeals formally on the same basis. However, when John Wilton won his case, the DHSS did not take this as applying to all the others. The old rate of Giro was not paid to John Wilton or to any of the other twenty at first, nor to any of the other more recently arrived residents. Nor were the arrears paid.

What has happened, when the DHSS heard of the Tribunal's decision, was that they failed to challenge it in Court within the required four weeks. They had delayed correcting payments for that time but having failed, they knew they would have to pay the old, higher rate of Giro to the twenty others, plus Mr Wilton. But they issued instructions not to pay it to any of the other residents until they appealed, individually. (Thus causing convenient tension among residents?)

Carmel Carter and the residents took this up at a higher level through their solicitors with the DHSS Legal Department and threatened to take the DHSS to High Court for not carrying out their legal obligations.

When challenged strongly with the facts of the case, they stated that they had been under a misapprehension that the nature of the hostel management had changed. One of their staff said she thought they were some kind of "hippy commune". The interesting question is, who planted this misapprehension in their minds, since their officers at Bonhill Street have known the project intimately from the start and have been engaging in regular arguments with Mrs Carter and her committee on this very point for months.

With their backs to the wall, they agreed on 9 June to pay the correct Giros and the arrears. Nevertheless the arrears (a very sizeable sum) have not yet been paid. They are allowed to be held up at some regional office. No doubt pending a Court decision on

the possession order on Friday, which they hoped would suit the GLC.

Having failed to bankrupt the project by this means, through the DHSS - that 'Independent' authority - the GLC in the meantime turned to using its own resources, its own wrecker squads. With monstrous vandalism they broke into 8 Ivydene Road on 25 May, tore out the windows, the plumbing and the wiring. The house was unoccupied while decorations had been in progress for about three weeks. There was a scene when Carmel Carter called the police but the GLC proceeded with boarding up the house the next day, although it was under the same licence to the project as all their other houses, pending a possession order. HPP rang up the GLC Press Office and asked on what grounds they had taken this action. They claimed that they had thought the house was abandoned. Asked whether it had been reported as abandoned by local people, they replied: "No, there had been no reports from the local community, but GLC officers had happened to be in the area and felt it was abandoned, and reported it."

Mrs Carter and her committee have made various attempts to meet the requirements set out by the GLC. They have registered as a company, so that they are now a proper legal entity. They are proceeding with registering as a charity and trying to register as a housing association. They have invited various outside people onto their management committee to bring in more expertise and have offered to co-operate with the GLC and take advice and help from them.

What they are not willing to do is to hand over their home to someone else to take over and manage. They have offered to buy the houses, or some others. It seems, however, that whatever the GLC say about their policies in general, they are not going to apply them to Carmel's Commune in particular.

The Tory GLC policy is to encourage people to buy their own homes - except for Carmel's Commune. They are offering Council tenants the chance to purchase their homes and have announced their "homesteading" scheme, "as an active encouragement to people to make their own contribution ..."

## PREJUDICE

The Broadway Market Squatters Group, just along the road from Carmel's Commune, are forming a housing co-operative and are being encouraged to buy their houses. Yet Mrs Carter has a copy of an internal GLC memo saying: "Don't make a decision on the Squatters' Group yet as it will prejudice our chances of getting Carmel's Commune out."

The GLC have long since realised that Carmel Carter's main strength derives from the support of the residents. They also realise that they are not all a stable community but a changing one. Many are referred by social workers, probation officers and so on, some come off the streets, some only stay for a while. However, over half the places are taken by people who like the place, choose to stay there and share in the running of it. Some of these have been there for two or three years, others for one year or less. It is these people whom the GLC offered to rehouse if they did not want to stay under a different management imposed by the GLC. Some offers were made and about nine accepted. What they were offered was slum accommodation, undecorated, in a filthy state, several of them with no water and one or two had to

wait weeks for the basic services to be switched on. This only served to toughen the determination of the rest to stay in Lansdowne Drive and fight it out. Several of them, both elderly and young, would never want to have to live on their own anyway, and this

has been their first real home for years. Finding suitable accommodation for them in a group would take a very long time. They are asking to be allowed to be rehoused as a group, if they are finally hounded out of their present home.



Carmel Carter

## Local homes raided after 'bombing' claim

Officers from the police anti-terrorist squad have carried out a bizarre series of raids on the homes of anarchists and anarchist sympathisers in north and north east London recently. This action comes in the wake of the "conspiracy to cause explosion" charges which have been recently preferred against three people, Ronan Bennett, Iris Mills and Dafydd Ladd. The press has made a meal out of the raids, following the police claim that a "bomb-wave" had been planned by a "loose-knit" group of anarchists. The fact that there have been no explosions has been ignored.

When the police visited a house in Grosvenor Avenue, Highbury, the home of HPP's former printer, they battered the door down with a sledgehammer before even giving the occupants a chance to open it. Ironically, in doing so they jammed the door and it then took them a quarter of an hour to get in. All they took from the house were three photograph albums, despite going to the extent of ripping up the floorboards.

Further raids have included three visits to a house in Forest Road, Hackney, whose occupants said only that the raids were "fucking stupid", and visits to houses in Finsbury Park and Hornsey. The police have also visited the Bow house where Jim Paton, the organiser of the Aubrey/Berry/Campbell Defence Campaign, used to live. Arriving at 6 am they included two German-speaking officers who questioned a German man staying at the house. "Do you know any of the Baader-Meinhof

gang?" they asked casually. "No", came the reply. "Oh", the police said, "that's a different firm, is it?" Paton went voluntarily to the police the next day with a solicitor. When he refused to answer personal questions, the officers gave up.

Meanwhile the three charged with conspiracy are still on remand in Brixton prison. Iris Mills is the only woman in the prison, and, of course, is not allowed to see the other prisoners. They are still handcuffed to police when they make their weekly court appearances despite the fact that the police said that no explosives had been found in the flat, but there had been weedkiller. Detective Inspector Bradbury said that this "could" be used to make explosives. He had also found "other items" but he would not tell the court what they were. Perhaps they were packets of Tampax, which were confiscated by the anti-terrorist squad in a raid in 1974 on the grounds that they "could be used as bomb fuses".

Further arrests have still not been made, despite the earlier police scare tactics, and claims that they were involved in armed robberies have still not been substantiated. Even journalists are being locked in the Press box at the magistrates court whenever the three appear.

A support group has been formed and is organising pickets outside Brixton every Saturday. They can be contacted at Persons Unknown, Box 123, 182 Upper Street, London N1.

DON'T MISS THE HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

## PIC-NIC

VICTORIA PARK - SUNDAY 9 JULY 3pm  
meet by swimming pool (Royal Gate East)

BRING FRIENDS, FOOD, FRISBEES...  
...AND HAVE FUN WITH US!

if wet ring 249-0311 or 254-1306 for alternative date/venue



## THREAT TO NURSERIES AND PLAYGROUPS

If teachers were paid on the basis of their pupils' attendance there would be an outcry. But this is exactly what the Council want to do with the Community Nurseries and the thirty voluntary playgroups who care for those under fives in the borough not in council care. This would mean that if numbers should fall for any reason - an outbreak of measles for example - the grant to these desperately needed facilities would be reduced.

People who work in these places would have no job security which would probably lead to a high turnover of staff - as everybody knows, children that young need security, and that means being able to form stable relationships with the adults that care for them. This way of funding would not provide security.

Playgroups would find it very difficult to plan ahead for such things as play equipment. Because of this it is very likely that fees would go up (despite the poorer quality of care) for some groups to survive financially.

This will concern you - if you have a child in a Community Nursery or a playgroup, or if you are concerned at the short-sightedness of Hackney Council in their attempt to cut back in provision for under fives, or if you believe that children in Hackney should get the best possible playgroups and nurseries instead of second best.

On Tuesday 4 July the Social Services Committee will be deciding on this issue, 'per capita' as it is called, and hopefully they will decide against it.

The Hackney Under Fives Group is taking no chances, however, and they are organising a demonstration outside the Town Hall on that day. If it does go through, they urge all HPP readers to join the campaign against it.

## Hackney lets Let Live live

Hackney Council has refused to reconsider its decision to allow the anti-abortion group, Let Live, to open a hostel in Hackney. The Council Housing Management Committee was tied 8-8 in a vote to change the decision made last autumn, first published in HPP, but the Chairperson Charles Cable gave his casting vote against the motion.

The Anti-Let Live group which had been formed to present a deputation to the Committee meeting had told the Committee that the needs of single pregnant women are not being met in Hackney. Especially needed are facilities for young homeless pregnant women and a proper support system for one-parent families. The Council should be responsible for good housing, counselling and nurseries. Let Live was to be allowed to be the only organisation which could set up a hostel for homeless pregnant women. The deputation told the Committee about Let Live's links with anti-abortion groups, especially SPUC, the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, and said that even though Let Live had claimed that it would not try and influence pregnant women not to have abortions. Though if they wanted them it was too biased not to do so. A more responsible stance for the Council to take would have been to support extension of the day-care abortion service in Tower Hamlets or Hackney.

Because the motion was lost the Anti-Let Live group will picket both the June Labour Group and Council meetings, and is planning a large public meeting for the end of July. Further details in future issues of HPP.

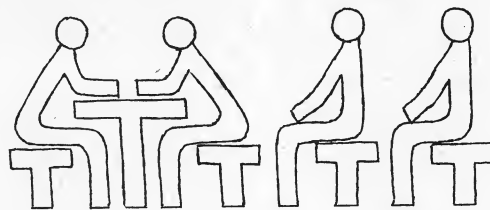
## WANTED: more law centres

The Labour Party in its manifesto has declared its commitment to the establishment of two further Law Centres in the borough. Hackney's Legal Action Group invited all of Hackney's councillors to a meeting on 20 June at the Town Hall to discuss the implementation of this commitment.

The unmet need for legal services in an area with the problems which Hackney faces is now widely recognised. The proportion of private solicitors in the borough per head of the population is very low. Problems such as bad housing, harassment, unfair dismissal, complaints against the police and social security problems are not

to extend their involvement outside the Centre and take a greater part in community activities, but at present the very small number of staff limits expansion in both of these areas.

The experience of the Law Centre and the six voluntary legal advice sessions in the borough all indicate that there remains a need for the establishment of at least two additional Law Centres in different parts of the borough. Fifteen councillors attended the meeting on 20 June and discussed how the commitment in the manifesto could be made a reality. It was felt that only by concerted pressure would the Council be persuaded to provide the



normally dealt with by private solicitors, and the Legal Aid system does not in general extend to this type of case.

Hackney Law Centre opened in May 1976 in a tripartite centre consisting of the Citizens Advice Bureau, Consumer Advice Centre and Law Centre. The Law Centre deals primarily with case-work in the fields of housing and employment. The Law Centre workers would like to extend their work to cover, in particular, cases involving immigration problems and child care proceedings. Both of these areas of law are usually important in Hackney and at present there are inadequate facilities for dealing with them. The Law Centre would also like

additional financial resources which are needed. All local groups such as tenants' associations, and all individuals who would welcome the establishment of a law centre in their area should put pressure on their local councillor for action now.

The Council may well now consider that they have dealt with the problem adequately by making provision for one Law Centre. It should be remembered however that there are at present only two solicitors at the Law Centre and 200,000 people in Hackney. It is up to the people in Hackney to ensure that their Council provides them with the kind of legal services they need. Start campaigning now!

## Children in hospital

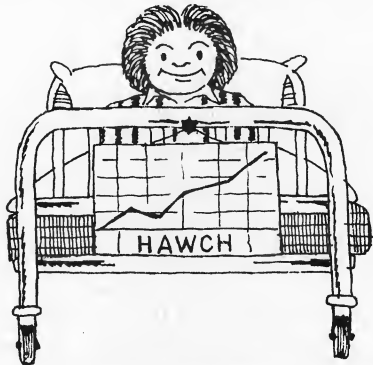
Did you know that nearly half of all children under seven will spend at least one night in hospital? Or that, of these, 60% will be admitted as emergencies?

The Hackney Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital aims to help parents in the preparation of their children for a stay in hospital, and to bridge the gap between hospital and home. They provide an information service for parents, books for children concerning doctors, dentists, and hospitals from 15p upwards, an accommodation list of people who will put

parents up overnight, free of charge, and speakers for organisations who wish to know more about the Association.

HAWCH also campaigns for the universal acceptance of unrestricted visiting for children in hospitals, accommodation in hospitals for mothers of young children, more child-orientated accident and outpatient facilities, play programmes in all children's wards, improved long-term care for the handicapped child and financial assistance for parents who cannot afford to visit their child in hospital. In addition, last year they raised £1,600 to pay for an extra playworker at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children.

One of HAWCH's current projects is the making of toy-kits which can be easily handed out by nurses and play workers and donations of toys, clothes, materials, buttons, comics, books etc are always appreciated. The Association also welcomes help from people interested in this important subject. Volunteers can contact Jan Burnell, tel 800 9218 or Stefanie Bowman, tel 806 5826



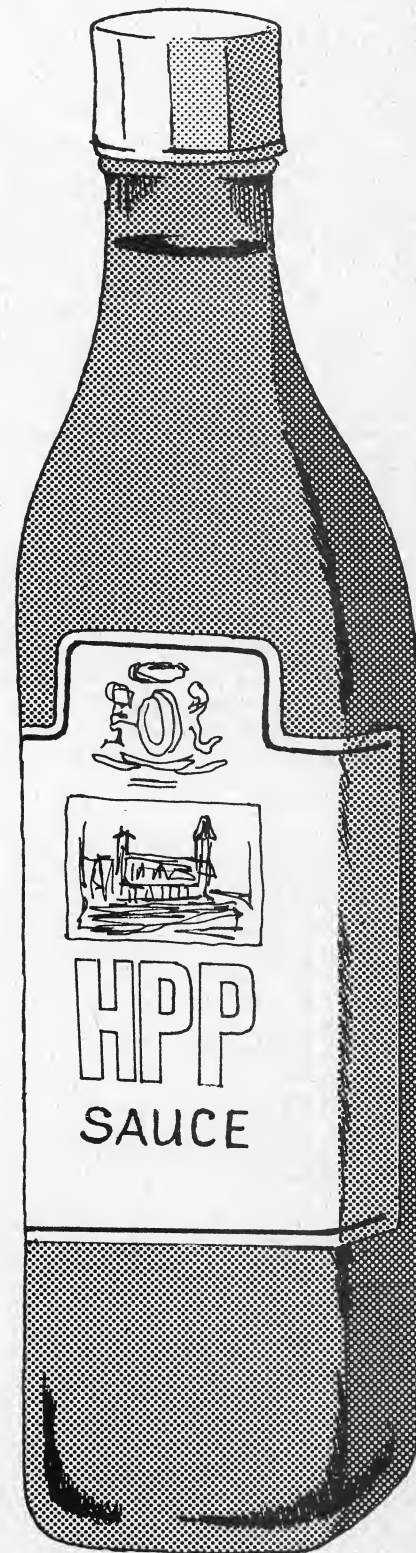
## ANTI-NAZI APPEAL

A fire bomb attack on the Anti-Nazi League's Central London office has resulted in thousands of pounds' worth of damage. The building was broken into on the night of Friday 23 June and set alight. "NF rules OK - Jim, Chris and Jill" was found scrawled on one of the walls, which indicates that the blaze was started by infuriated NF supporters, angry

at the effect the Anti-Nazi League's work has had on their recent election votes.

Hackney South and Shoreditch Anti-Nazi League has set itself a target of £500 to be raised to pay for some of the damage caused. Please send your donations now to Hackney South and Shoreditch Anti-Nazi League, c/o Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, E2.

## ADD A BIT OF SPICE TO YOUR LIFE!



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SEE page 7 for further details.



# "It makes sense, that's why they won't do it"

Once again tenants on a pre-War GLC estate are complaining that their estate needs proper modernisation, not the deal that the GLC is offering. Dot Mbeki, of Stamford Hill Estate Tenants' Association, explains what their complaints are.

Who can blame Hackney Council for not wanting Stamford Hill Estate? The GLC doesn't want it either, nor do the people who live there think much of it. For years the GLC has let the Estate deteriorate, ignoring maintenance ... repairs ... damp. The rubbish disposal system is antiquated and inadequate, and the GLC has no plans to do anything about it. Five storey blocks with no lifts - and no plans to do anything about that either. Of course, there just might be some plans, only the GLC doesn't bother to inform us (we only live here) what they have in mind, let alone ask us what we want.

Most of the tenants are here by choice all the same, a few because they have roots in the area, or gave up trying to move out years ago. Very many because their only other choice was the hostel or bed and breakfast scene. Very many are on the transfer list - and have been for years. It's not much fun for anyone, and the older tenants want peace and quiet while the kids want to play. And the only social amenity for anyone on the Estate of nearly 600 flats is a patch of asphalt. No wonder the kids ignore the 'No Ball Games' notices - they can't all get on that patch. And no wonder that the elderly and the sick object to balls banging against their walls and sometimes through their windows. The little kids can't go out at all of course because of the dangers of the traffic.

The GLC has found a brilliant solution. It proposes a "Club Room" on that one and only play area. We badly need a Community Hall, but not here. We need more and proper play grounds. Bang in the middle of the Estate is a large depot owned by Hackney Council and used as a garage, causing quite a noise nuisance. The Tenants' Association has approached Hackney Council with a view to getting the depot converted into a Community Hall, or

better still, pulled down and a new Hall built with a play ground attached. Our Ward councillors have promised to fight for us on this, and we have to make sure that all the councillors do. Let's see if they can prove the worker in the depot wrong when he said: "It makes sense - that's why they won't do it." We can't afford to lose this battle. After all, what sort of community can we build when there's nowhere to meet up and nowhere for the kids to play without the tensions increasing? We're not only gunning for the depot though; the need for social amenities is too urgent.

It's not all the fault of the GLC - morale on the Estate has been low, and the Tenants' Association revived only recently. You don't get anything unless you fight for it, and hoping for a transfer you won't get isn't much of a solution. It was the GLC which helped to revive the Association - by offering a "modernisation" deal so inadequate it has been a catalyst bringing us together to fight for all the things the deal ignores. The "modernisation" deal is of course inspired by the GLC's desire, under the leadership of private property dealer Horace Cutler, to hive off its sub-standard pre-War Estates. What does it mean? A facelift on the interiors of the flats.

## RATS AND MAGGOTS

So presumably we are supposed to cook in our gleaming new kitchens whilst the rats and maggots breed in the rubbish chutes. And on top of the rent increase demanded in return for the facelift we can expect rocketing fuel bills because central heating is to be installed whilst the windows are to be left as they are - ill-fitting and with rotting frames. Double glazing? - Who do we think we are? ... And don't bother to enclose the pipes, or tile the floors of the concrete passages - it would increase the cost of the deal with the contractors. The GLC is making every effort to do away with direct labour - it's unionised. Instead it farms out work to private, profit-making contractors. That's when it's not busy selling off the property of the people.

We're barraging the GLC with demands - and one demand they've already conceded: we're to have an overflow on the bath after all! (Yes, we do all have bathrooms already, though some flats have no wash basin and tenants have to wash and shave in the kitchen). Maybe it's a bit unfair to think the lack of an overflow in the plans indicated a certain indifference for our safety ... maybe they just haven't got rid of the habits of mind which made their forefathers argue it was pointless to give workers baths - they'd only put coal in them. Back in 1934 the LCC implemented a policy of no overflows on the baths because they'd provide transit routes for the bugs bred by the lower orders.

We've got a fight on our hands to get anything beyond this facelift. Let's hope Hackney Council will spell out its requirements for the improvement of such estates before they'll take them over - and make them high. Not just for the interiors of the flats, but at least as importantly for the amenities for the Estate as a whole.

On Thursday 18 July at 8 pm, tenants from Stamford Hill will be meeting Councillor Ken Livingstone at County Hall. Any other GLC tenants in Hackney are welcome to attend.



Photo: Hammer

This is where the G.L.C. want to build a "Club Room" - on the only play area serving the 600 flats of the Stamford Hill estate. The Tenants' Association want a Community Hall, but not here.



Last week at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court there were two appearances in which the defendants applied for bail and were refused. They were therefore held in prison to await their cases.

## CANNABIS CHARGES

The first case was that of a couple in their twenties who had been arrested on various charges of possessing and growing cannabis and were pleading not guilty. They had already been in custody for some weeks and were applying for bail. The girl's mother was prepared to place herself as surety for her, and to offer all her savings as surety, which included her £15,000 flat. The girl was willing to live with her mother and realised that if she did not appear in court her mother would be in danger of losing a great deal. Despite this, bail was refused and the couple were taken back to prison until at least next week, and probably longer. This was purely because the policeman who arrested them objected to bail.

## OBJECTION TO BAIL

The second case was that of a woman in her thirties who had committed several thefts and had admitted to them. The arresting officer was objecting to bail because he said that the woman had missed court appearances on several occasions. In fact, the woman had been ill each time and had produced doctor's certificates. The police conceded this, but said that they still felt that this woman would deliberately stay away from court if she were not kept in prison. The arresting

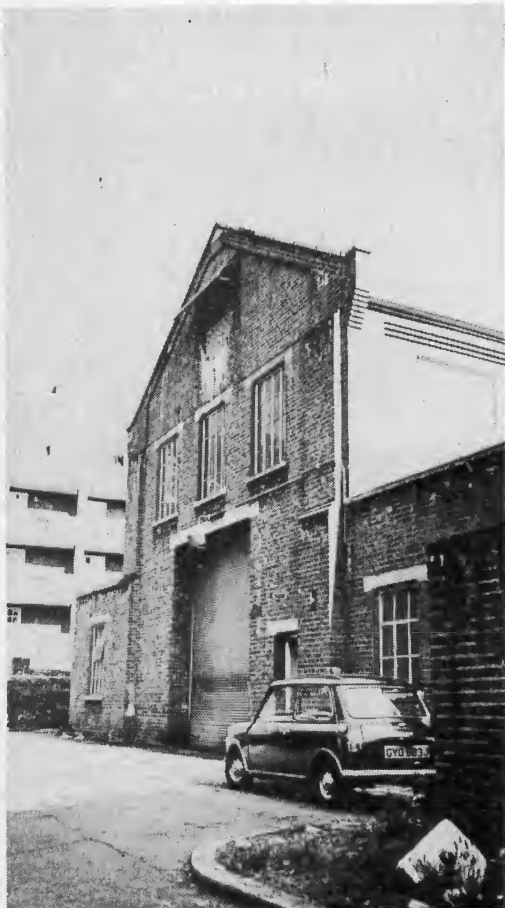
officer also said that he knew that she is very unlikely to leave her home, and in his own words: "I could go and arrest her at any time", but still objected to bail.

## SON RAN AWAY

The reason why the woman wanted bail was because of her two sons, aged 14 and 11. The 14-year old had run away from his boarding school when he realised that his mother was in prison. He had been so upset on the day before her court appearance that he had taken a serious overdose of Valium. He was refusing to go back to school until his mother left prison, and was in danger of losing his place at the school if he did not return on the following day. This was ironic because the mother was saying that the reason for all her thefts had been to make money to send her sons away to school to "save them from growing up into Hoxton thugs". Her other son was being looked after by friends. This woman was also refused bail.

## POLICE OPPOSE BAIL

These were not dramatic cases, and similar bail applications take place every day in every magistrates' court. They were, however, typical, because almost every time the police oppose bail, it is refused. The law instructs over magistrates to judge impartially. In practice they are seen to be swayed by the wishes of the police. Judgement then is made on the streets and not in the courts, and is therefore accountable to no-one.



The depot owned by Hackney Council which the Tenants' Association suggest could be converted into a Community Hall.

Photo: Hammer

# CUTS DRESSED UP AS PROGRESS

The NE Thames Regional Health Authority, which controls the NHS in the borough, has at last published its plans for the new hospital which is to be built on the site presently occupied by the Eastern. Originally this new hospital was going to be a large district hospital, which would fully serve the needs of the borough. Now, it seems that this will not be so - once again Hackney is to be palmed off with less hospital beds and reduced services. Below, a doctor from the Hackney Hospital reviews the new plans.

For more than ten years we have been waiting for building to start on a new big hospital which will serve the needs of Hackney. Now we have been given what we are told is the "final" plan - and we are not getting the large hospital we hoped for. The new "nucleus" hospital will only have 437 beds (less than the number in the Eastern and the other hospitals which will be closed) and two other small hospitals will be left open as well. Altogether the new hospitals will provide about HALF the service which exists now (as if that wasn't bad enough!)

The proposals are that a new district hospital will be built on the site of the Eastern. This will cater for emergencies and maternities and will contain a few beds for the elderly and for rehabilitation. Hackney Hospital and St Leonard's will be converted to community hospitals for the elderly and mentally ill. These will take up a third of the beds needed for these cases - the rest will be treated at St Bartholomews. The kidney unit "may" be located elsewhere in the area, and there is no provision for mentally or physically handicapped children (who "may" have a place at what is now the Mothers "if it can be reopened in the future.")

The plan is a mish-mash of short cuts and cheap ways out of providing a decent health service for the borough. Only 17% of the beds at Barts are filled by people from the area. It is a teaching hospital and provides specialist services for the whole of South East England. People in Hackney don't want to go to Barts, and it doesn't want any more patients from Hackney. It has consistently refused to take a proper share of the elderly and mentally ill - what's going to change it in the future? If they

## chc

The City and Hackney Community Health Council is also angered by the new proposals for the district hospital. The plans are outlined in a so-called 'Discussion Document' issued by the Regional Area Health Authority. But, although so titled, neither the CHC nor any other group in Hackney has been asked to comment on it. The CHC has, however, sent its comments and queries to the Regional Area Health Authority. These are briefly summarised here.

They also question the reduction of maternity and geriatric beds considering the statistical forecasts for Hackney's future needs. They do not favour single speciality units (eg for geriatrics). They question the use of Hackney Hospital for large numbers of psychiatric patients when DHSS recommendations are for small psychiatric units and note that there appears to be no plans for an assessment unit. They are concerned at the lack of provision for the mentally handicapped and the CHC would not support the use of the Mothers Hospital for these patients. The CHC are pressing for the retention of St

have to fill 75% of the beds with patients from Hackney then the Health Service in the whole of the region will suffer.

The two "community hospitals" will become dumping grounds for people that are old or inconvenient. It is against all medical and government recommendations to separate geriatric and psychiatric patients from general hospitals. These become "sink" hospitals, and health service workers don't want to go there. We already have a shortage of these people in Hackney's hospitals - why make it even less attractive for them to work there?

As always, the plan is to cut the number of beds in the borough. - by 37%. Once again these cuts take no account of Hackney's problems. The Hackney Hospital has been closed for female admissions at least one day per week every week this year. On a couple of occasions recently every female bed in the hospital has been full for more than a week. Doctors and nurses have had to transfer patients all over the hospital to fit new ones in. Sometimes even this was impossible. At one point in April, there was only one available bed in the whole of Hackney! And they are going to cut the number of beds by 37%.

Why can't we have a decent hospital in Hackney? Because the government has cut back on the money for the Health Service and has also diverted money away from the poorer areas. Because for ten years (or more) the planners have been messing around with bits of paper and putting off the fateful day when spade hits earth for the new hospital. One thing is certain, Hackney people will have to fight for a decent full-sized hospital on one site - no dumps, no short cuts: the real thing.

Leonards Hospital as a property maintained acute hospital with the Renal Dialysis Unit retained there.

Copies of the new plans and the CHC's comments on them can be obtained from the Community Health Council, 210 Kingsland Road, E2.

### CHC Meeting

'Health and Safety in Industry' is the subject for the next meeting organised by the City and Hackney Community Health Council. This is particularly relevant in the light of the new Act coming into force in October which gives responsibility for safety in industry to both employer and employee. Sheila McKechnie, Health and Safety Officer for ASTMS, will be speaking at the meeting on Monday 17 July at 7.30 pm at 210 Kingsland Road, E2.

# A STAR IS BANNED

Hackney Morning Star Group were banned from having a stall at the Council's bunfight in Clissold Park, the Hackney Show, because it was "too political". The Group was told of this decision on the afternoon before the Show. Steve Scott, Chairperson of the Council Libraries Committee, who made the decision, refused to discuss why he had banned the Star.

Hackney Communist Party said: "Of course the Star is political, like every newspaper. But unlike other national daily newspapers, it is a campaigning socialist paper. This banning goes against democracy."

Councillor Gerry Ross has now written to the Libraries Committee about the ban, and also to express his concern with the way the Hackney Show is run. He told HPP that he would like to see many more voluntary organisations having stalls at the Show, like HPP. (We've never even bothered to apply for a stall!) "At the moment", he said, "the Council puts on a show and everyone walks round and looks at it."

Gerry Ross would also like to see

the show moved round Hackney's other parks, Hackney Downs and London Fields especially.

Certainly the Hackney Show is pretty boring. There is much more energy and enthusiasm at the Hackney Marsh Fun Festival (where HPP will have a stall) which is organised by the people of the area. For details of this see page 8.

The Council could also save a lot of money by abandoning the Hackney Show and all the bureaucracy that goes with it. Two council commissioners were on duty all day in a marquee which was reserved for councillors only.

HPP's intrepid staff peered in several times and couldn't see anyone at all inside. Not very surprising, perhaps, that councillors should be loath to be seen sitting at tables with tea served by waitresses when outside their constituents were queuing to buy hamburgers and popcorn from the rip-off merchants usually seen fleecing tourists in the West End.



Last year Grapevine ran for ten weeks on BBC-2 during June, July and August. The idea of the programme was to act as an exchange for information and advice for any individuals or groups involved in self help schemes. The programme covered a wide range including housing co-ops, one-parent family projects, community art groups and mural painting schemes and there was also some advice on fund-raising. Anyone could write in to the programme for information sheets which provided addresses and additional information, so it was possible for them to follow up the ideas in more depth.

THEY WANT TO HEAR  
FROM ANYONE INVOLVED  
OR INTERESTED IN  
SELF HELP PROJECTS...



Most of the subjects covered were as a direct response to letters received from viewers. Grapevine wants to start this sort of communication again, so please write! Among lots of ideas already suggested are community video, credit unions and workers' co-ops. There will also be an item on community newspapers. The next series starts on 10 July on BBC-2.

Grapevine wants to introduce people about to begin self-help schemes to those involved in schemes that are alive and kicking.

So if you have any ideas, suggestions, comments or whatever, write to Grapevine, BBC TV, London W12 8QT.

### Mother and Toddler Group

A new Mother and Toddler Group has started at 85 Sandbrooke Road. The Group, for Mothers with babies or toddlers from six months to two and a half years, is held on Thursdays from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm. For more details, phone Jan Burnell at 800 9218.

## SHORT-LIFE MOVE

Following the picket of the Council by the Hackney Housing Action Group in May, a meeting was held on 21 June between the Group and Broad Left members of the Housing Development Committee. Ten of the twenty-four Broad Left councillors are on this committee. The Committee itself has sixteen members, so the Broad Left will nearly always be able to achieve a majority. The fact that approaching half of the Broad Left group have been placed on this Committee gives an indication of where their priorities lie - with an improved housing service in the Borough.

The meeting was very productive, with considerable common ground between the two groups. The Housing Action Group will be working to outline proposals for a short life housing section within the Housing Department. The Housing Development Committee has the power to instruct housing officers to take this further and produce a worked out programme for short life property.

HPP has heard from a number of the Council's housing officers that there is a considerable interest in a short life unit that would reduce the thousands of properties left empty in the Borough. Let's hope that the Housing Development Committee and the officers of the Housing Department work together to get a short life section as soon as possible.

## BAN THE CANE!

The National Union of School Students will be holding a demonstration against the use of corporal punishment in schools, especially the cane. The demonstration will leave Speakers Corner, Marble Arch on Tuesday 11 July at 5pm and will go to County Hall where GLC councillors will be lobbied.

The demonstration will of course mainly consist of school students from all over London, but all school students, teachers and anyone else who is opposed to the continued use of the cane is welcome to attend.

Contact NUSS, 302 Pentonville Road, N1. 278 3291.



# FUNN IN THE SUNN

We list below all the Play Schemes operating in Hackney this summer. Generally the schemes operate during August from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm but full details can be obtained from Hackney Play Association, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8, tel 254 9632 or from the ILEA Youth Office, 138 Kingsland Road, E2, tel 739 6951. Roundabout, a guide that contains details of the play schemes as well as ideas for things to do and places to see is being published by Hackney Play Association. It will be available from them at the above address in mid-July.

The Special Schemes shown below may be offering particular activities, or are aimed at specific groups of children.

## STAMFORD HILL AND UPPER CLAPTON

Leaside Young Mariners Youth Centre, Spring Lane, E5 (Canoeing)  
Stamford Hill Library, Portland Avenue, N16  
ILEA Stamford Hill Youth Club will be operating a special day-time programme for a few weeks  
ILEA Centre, Harrington Hill School, E5  
Springfield Park - Playpark

## HACKNEY DOWNS AND RECTORY

ILEA Centre - Amhurst School, Sigdon Road, E8  
Downs Estate TA Play Project, Amhurst Road, E8  
Hackney Community Relations Commission, the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16  
Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8  
Clapton Library, Northwold Road, N16  
Somerford Grove Library, Farleigh Road, N16  
ILEA Downstown Club, Muir Road, Downs Road, E5 will be operating a special day-time programme.  
Stoke Newington Community Association - Northwold School or Fire Station, Leswin Road, N16

## HOMERTON AND HACKNEY MARSHES

ILEA Centre, Mandeville School, Oswald Street, E5  
Kingsmead Project, Wally Foster Community Centre, and Hackney Marsh Adventure Playground, Kingsmead Estate, E9  
Homerton Grove Adventure Playground, Wardle Street, E9  
Homerton Library, Homerton High Street, E9  
Chats Palace Summer Play Scheme, Brooksby Walk, E9.  
Pedro Club Summer Holiday Project, 175 Rushmore Road, E5

## DALSTON AND QUEENSBRIDGE

Holly Street Adventure Playground, Richmond Road, E8 (Special summer programme)  
Market Nursery Project, 65 Broke Road, E8  
Dalston Library, Dalston Lane, E8

## SOUTH HACKNEY AND HACKNEY WICK

ILEA Centre - Berger School, Anderson Road, E9  
Central Library, Mare Street, E8  
Parkside Library, Victoria Park Road, E9  
Eastway Library, Wick Road, E9 (Mural painting - two sessions)

## HAGGERSTON

ILEA Centre - Haggerston School, Weymouth Terrace, E2  
Goldsmiths Row Library, Goldsmiths Row, E2  
Kate Greenaway Library, Weymouth Terrace, E2  
Haggerston Park - Play park  
Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road E2

## HOXTON AND SHOREDITCH

ILEA Centre - St John the Baptist School, Crondall Street, N1  
Hoxton Hall Project, Hoxton Street, N1  
Shoreditch and District Library, Pitfield Street N1  
Wenlock Library, Murray Grove, N1

## DE BEAUVOIR

De Beauvoir Summer Project - Hut Club, Nr Rozei Court, N1  
Rose Lipman Library, De Beauvoir Road, N1

## STOKE NEWINGTON AND CLISSOLD

ILEA Centre - Princess May School, Barretts Grove, N16  
Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground Project, N16  
Lordship Manor Summer Holiday Project, Manor Road, N16  
Seventh Day Adventist Church Project, Grazebrook School  
Stoke Newington District Library, Stoke Newington Church Street, N16  
Howard Road Library, Howard Road, N16

## MANOR HOUSE

Bangladesh Womens Association Project, Parkwood School, Queens Drive, N4  
Brownswood Library, Brownswood Road, N4  
Woodberry Down Library, Woodberry Down, N4  
ILEA Parkside Youth Club, Woodberry Grove, N4 will be open during the day for approximately a four week period  
Green Lanes Youth Club Holiday Project, 132 Green Lanes, N16  
ILEA Centre - Sir Thomas Abney School, Fairholt Road, N16



## WRITE YOUR OWN NEWSPAPER !!

Centerprise and Hackney People's Press are co-operating on a summer play-scheme again this year to produce a newspaper which will be written, designed and produced by the children on the playscheme. This was very successful last year resulting in the famous "Hackney Gasbag". The newspaper will be distributed with the September issue of HPP.

The playscheme will give children plenty of opportunities to learn such skills as writing, photography, graphics and design and should be both interesting and enjoyable. Visits will be arranged to our printers and the printers of a national daily newspaper.

Anyone interested should get in touch with Sue Eslick, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8, tel 254 9632.

## OLD HACKNEY: SOME PEOPLE & PLACES

Perhaps the following article would be of some interest to the "oldies" of the borough of Hackney.

One well-known character of the old times was Dr Jelly. He was of Australian descent and well-known for his kindness to the "poor mums". A sixpence in old currency was usually his charge for a consultation. He had a place on the corner of Mackintosh Lane in Homerton High Street, which was sometimes used as a kind of maternity ward. He was very eccentric and often seen on a horse. He later went round in a very dilapidated old 'banger', top hat and all. He was struck off the Medical Register and served a prison sentence for what is now a legal act.

The Clapton Rink in Lower Clapton Road originally was a roller skating hall, and was later converted into a cinema showing silent films at first, then "talkies". For a nominal sum of seven or ninepence in old currency, one could see two good feature films plus stage turns, including Billy Cotton and His Band in the Lower Clapton Road. Kenning Hall Cinema, which is still in operation, used to have a very nice select orchestra playing during the performance. The Hackney Empire, now a bingo hall, used to be a theatre, where one could see artists who later on became famous in the entertainment

world. One particular act was Ted and Barbara Andrews and their daughter Julie, who later became world famous in films. Julie would have been about fourteen at that time and the way that she could reach those top notes was wonderful. Barbara Andrews played the piano and Ted had a good deep voice.

Others who started out in Hackney were Frankie Vaughan and Shirley Bassey. A good few years before them were G H Elliot, Marie Lloyd and the pioneers of the Big Band, Hylton and Payne. Even Enid, Jack Hylton's wife, had her own band there. You could get a good evening out for about five bob with a drink thrown in at either the Britannic next door or the Old Ship, a couple of shops away.

Another interesting scene was in the Narrow Way, Mare Street, during the reign of the electric trams. It was a two-way system, but at one point only a single track, so a tram had to wait by Mathew Rose's store while the other passed through the single line.

What about those cheap trips to Southend on a Saturday night for a few shillings, or a bus to Bloomsbury at five pence return? The workman's bus ticket, if bought before 7.30 am gave you a free return ride in the evening.

R Hughes (age 76), De Beauvoir Estate.

## events

22 June onwards. Half Moon Theatre, Alie Street, E1 at 8.00 pm

"Alfredo Galvez, Twelve Shifts of Gear" by Juan Vera

Tuesday 4 July. Poplar Civic Theatre Bow Road, E3 at 7.30 pm.

East London Anti-Nazi League meeting. Speakers include Paul Holborow, Kamlesh Gandhi and Anna Raeburn

Friday 7 July at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8, at 8.00 pm

"Women at Work" - Hackney Flashers' Slide Show and commentary

Saturday 8 July. Basement, 41 Rushmore Road, E5 at 8.00 pm

Social with Acholay (Chilean/Bolivian folk group). Only £1

Saturday 8 July. Sloane Square, SW1. Gay Pride Carnival, information from 837 7324

Sunday 9 July. Highbury Fields, N5 at 10.00 am.

Sponsored walk around feminist history.

DON'T FORGET THE HPP PICNIC!

SUNDAY 9 JULY 3pm  
VICTORIA PARK

(SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS)

Thursday 13 July. Centerprise at 8.00

SPGB meeting - "The Way Capitalism Builds" Sam Westgate. All welcome.

Friday 14 July. Centerprise at 8 pm

Controlled Attack. Poetry, song, satire group from Stepney

Monday 17 July. Dalston Library, Dalston Lane, E8.

Hackney Women's Voice meeting, "Women and Immigrant Communities".

Monday 17 July. Community Health Council, 210 Kingsland Road, E2 at 7.30 pm

"Health and Safety in Industry" by Sheila McKechnie.

Monday 17 July Centerprise Annual General Meeting, 7.30 pm at 136 Kingsland High Street, E8

Friday 21 July. Centerprise at 8 pm.

"Who needs nurseries - we do!" Cartoon film by Leeds Animation Group, plus discussion.

# information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.  
For the next issue, just send us your information by

Friday 21st July

Write to Hackney People's Press, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

## Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

**HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION**  
34 Dalston Lane, E8.  
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

**TASK FORCE**  
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620  
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

**HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE**  
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

**HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT**  
74 Downham Road N1.  
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.  
Tuesday 10am-10pm  
Thursday 10am-4.30pm  
Friday 10am-10pm

**OFF CENTRE**  
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566  
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.  
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Thursdays).

**FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE**  
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.  
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.  
985 2233 (24 hours)  
985 0973 (office hours)  
986 9146

**FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS**  
Represents borough, GLC and private tenants throughout Hackney. Contact joint secretaries for details: Bob Darke, 154 Trelawney Estate, Paragon Road, E9 and Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE, 17 Victoria Park Square, E2 (981 1221).

**HACKNEY HOUSING ACTION GROUP**  
Concerned about the blight of homes left empty for long periods in Hackney and working to get them used. Contact Jon Webber, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

**HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM**  
East London branch, c/o John Bagge, 90 Fawcett Estate, Clapton Common, E5. Campaigns for advancement of education in constructive penal and social policies.

**HACKNEY GINGERBREAD**  
Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for details.

**HOMERTON GINGERBREAD**  
Group for one parent families. Meets every other Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972 for details.

**HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION**  
c/o 35 Finmere House, Woodberry Down, N4.

## Women

**HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN**  
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

**WOMEN'S CENTRE**  
1 Cazenove Road, N16.  
Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop, beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation, consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative medicine, self-defence. Further information from 806 6664. All women welcome.

**RAPE CRISIS CENTRE**  
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

**HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP**  
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N 16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 6208.

**HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE**  
Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact Judy Newcombe, 254 0685 for details. All women and men welcome.

## Health

**CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL**  
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/8351.  
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes HEALTH IN HACKNEY: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

**HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY**  
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Purdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

**THE BIRTH CENTRE**  
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.  
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital.  
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

**EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP**  
c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

**STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP**  
Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 3277.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

## Community Centres

**CENTERPRISE**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
Bookshop and office hours:  
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.  
Coffee bar and meeting room hours:  
Tuesday-Friday 10am-9.30pm.  
Saturday 10am-5.30pm.  
FACILITIES:  
Coffee bar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.  
ADVICE CENTRE:  
Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or ring 254 9634.  
READING CENTRE:  
For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.  
PUBLISHING PROJECT:  
Publishing books by people who live in Hackney. Contact Ken Worpole or ring 254 9634.

**WALLY FOSTER CENTRE**  
Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972.  
Community Centre with many activities:  
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE: eve: y weekday 9am-5pm.  
ADULT LITERACY CLASSES:  
Every Monday at 7pm.  
Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group, pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth club for 5-8 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance classes.  
See also ADVICE and NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES listings.

**THE FACTORY**  
107 Matthias Road, N16 (next to Newington Green School). Tel. 249 3066.  
Runs mothers and toddlers clubs, sewing classes, English classes, youth club, childminders drop-in group (creche provided), after school club, arts and crafts club, pensioners lunch club, food co-op and an Indian dance class.  
Contact them for further details.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE**  
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.  
Information and help for all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities.  
Mothers and toddlers group on Thursdays, 1.30-3.30pm (homeworkers especially welcome).  
"Encourage your child to read" class on Mondays, 5.30-7.30pm. Supplementary school now operating. Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Contact them for further information.  
Also see ADVICE and Neighbourhood English Classes and Gingerbread under COMMUNITY GROUPS listings on this page.

**HOXTON HALL**  
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4901.  
Runs playgroup, pensioners lunch club, legal advice centre, after-school junior club and writers' workshop as well as evening classes in shoe repairing, dressmaking, pottery, crafts, old-time dancing and singing. Also Women's Discussion Group and the Hoxton Drama Group.  
Many events take place in the theatre each month—see the EVENTS AND MEETINGS section. Also see ADVICE listing.

**LATIN AMERICA CENTRE**  
17 Hoxton Square, N1. Tel. 739 2910.  
Social and cultural centre for Latin Americans and British people interested in Latin America.

## Ecology

**WASTE PAPER etc.**  
Take old newspaper, magazines, cardboard, clean rags and car batteries to RESEARCH INTO CHILD BLINDNESS, Drysdale Street, N1 (just off Hoxton Street) and get given FREE Green Shield Stamps! 2 stamps per pound of paper.  
Monday-Friday 7am-4pm.  
All the paper YOU take in goes to help blind children to see.

**SERA (Socialist and Environmental Resources Association)**  
North East London branch meets regularly.  
Contact Jackie Hutson, 17 Mentmore Terrace, E8.

**HACKNEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH**  
Local group recently formed. For details ring Jim Read, 802 0122

**RECYCLED PAPER**  
High quality recycled papers (duplicating, printing, writing or card), personalised stationery and silk screen printing available from Regensis, 32 Warwick Road, N.16. Tel. 249 8367.

## Meditation

**PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS IN HACKNEY**  
Simple, natural, effortless transcendental meditation technique realizes full creative potential. Introductory talks: 8pm Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 51 Downs Park Road, E8. Tel. 254 6280.

**ANANDA MARGA**  
For spiritual progress and social change. Introduction to meditation classes every Wednesday 7.30pm. at 1 Cazenove Road, N16. Everyone welcome.

## Workshops

**THE WORKSHOP**  
81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082.  
Learn to print posters, T-shirts etc. at non-commercial rates. Cost of materials only.  
Open Tuesday-Sunday 1pm-8pm.

**COMET WORKSHOP**  
Halcomb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936.  
Learn sewing, macramé, toymaking, woodwork. Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee.  
Open every weekday.

## Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

**CENTERPRISE**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

**HOXTON HALL**  
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.  
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

**KINGSMEAD**  
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9.  
Tel. 985 3804.  
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

**SNAGS**  
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.  
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm. (802 7949).

**ALLEN ROAD**  
12 Allen Road, N16.  
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

**HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE**  
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446.  
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).  
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

**CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX**  
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.  
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

**HACKNEY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL**  
245 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 985 5244.  
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.  
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE**  
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.  
Information and help in all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

**HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE**  
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.  
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

**HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU**  
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE**  
5 Stamford Hill, N16.  
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.  
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

**RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE**  
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.  
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.  
SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from **HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT, OFF CENTRE and FRIENDS ANONYMOUS**. See Community Groups listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see **LABOUR PARTY** under **POLITICAL GROUPS** listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? Evicted?

EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE

Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

## Education

**SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION**  
83 Eleanor Road, E8.  
Contact Beverly Bowes for details.

**ENGLISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30pm at Latin America Centre, 17 Hoxton Square, N1.

**ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES**  
For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:  
Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.  
Pam Lorenz, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.  
Sue Grandfield, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 254 7763  
Mr G.L. Harding, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street N1. 739 6981.  
Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.  
Ms J Hewes, HIGHBURY MANOR AEI, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4. 226 9190.  
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street N1. 739 5431.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES

Teach the kind of English needed in day to day life. Classes operate throughout Hackney at:

**FAMILY CENTRE**, 50 Rectory Road, N16.  
Thursdays 10.30-12.30pm.  
**LOWER CLAPTON HEALTH CENTRE**, Lower Clapton Rd, E5.  
Wed and Fri 1.00-2.30pm.  
**THE FACTORY**, Matthias Road, N1.  
Wed and Fri 9.30-10.30am.  
**MOTHERS HOSPITAL**, Lower Clapton Road, E5.  
Mon and Wed 1.00-3.00pm.  
**SOMERFORD GROVE HEALTH CENTRE**, Somerford Gr, N16.  
Tuesdays 1.30-3.30pm.  
**WALLY FOSTER CENTRE**, Homerton Road, E9.  
Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm.  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD ADVICE CENTRE**, 129 Newington Green Rd, N1.  
Mon and Wed 7.30-9.00pm.  
**GAYHURST SCHOOL**, Gayhurst Road, E8.  
Wednesdays 4.00-6.00pm.

For further information contact Sabrina Aaronovitch at the Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16. 254 1193.

## Political Groups


**HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY**  
**HACKNEY NORTH AND STOKE NEWINGTON**  
Constituents advice service at 7pm every Friday at 5 Stamford Hill, N16 when local councillors are present. David Weitzmann, MP, also runs advice service every other Sunday at 11am. Ken Livingstone, GLC councillor, has advice service generally on 4th Thursday of each month.  
Details from 5 Stamford Hill, N16. Tel. 800 7430.  
**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY**  
**YOUNG SOCIALISTS**: for details contact secretary, Mumtaz Khan, c/o 5 Stamford Hill, N16.

**HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH**  
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Ron Brown, MP, available 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Margaret Morgan, GLC Councillor, available 1st Friday of each month. Local councillors every Friday. Advice service also operates at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bletchley Street, N1, at 7pm. on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Ron Brown is present on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Margaret Morgan on 3rd Fridays, and local councillors on 1st and 3rd Fridays.  
**HACKNEY SOUTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS**: for details contact secretary c/o 96 Dalston Lane, E8.  
**HACKNEY CENTRAL**  
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Stanley Clinton Davis, MP, available every Friday. Ellis Hillman, GLC Councillor, available every other Friday. Local councillors every Friday.  
**HACKNEY CENTRAL LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS**: for details contact Mrs A Smith, 294 Navarino Mansions, E8.

**HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE**  
Meets weekly. All young people welcome.  
**HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY**  
Twelve branches hold meetings regularly throughout the borough. All welcome.  
**HACKNEY MORNING STAR GROUP**  
Meets weekly. Organises political, social and fund-raising events in support of Britain's socialist daily paper, the Morning Star. All Morning Star readers/supporters welcome.  
For further information and a copy of the monthly newsletter detailing the meetings, campaigning actions etc. organised by the Hackney Morning Star group, Young Communist League and Communist Party contact David Green, 126 Amhurst Road, E8. Tel. 249 6374.

**HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY**  
Meets regularly in the borough. Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

**LONDON WORKERS GROUP**  
For independent militants, working anarchists and all those who wish to organise for direct workers control. Meets fortnightly. Contact Box W, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1, or ring Dave, 249 7042.

**ANARCHY COLLECTIVE**   
Produces ANARCHY, a seasonal magazine on sale in Centerprise and Rising Free, 20p. Also involved in general anarchist activity. Ring 359 4794 before 8pm.

**LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST GROUP**  
c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

**ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION**  
Box 11, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1.

**SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING**  
Hackney/Islington Branch. Contact Maureen Taylor or Mon Lawlor (263 4359 during daytime). SACU is open to anyone who favours friendship and understanding between Britain and socialist China.

**HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM**  
All-party anti-racist campaign. Meets first Wednesday of each month at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16.

**SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN HACKNEY GROUP**  
Meets second Thursday of every month at 8pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8.

**HACKNEY AND ISLINGTON WORLD DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT**  
Campaigns on third world issues, especially against the Arms Trade to these countries.

## Food

**TOWARDS JUPITER**  
191 Mare Street E8. 35 5394  
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.

**FOOD FOR ALL**  
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.  
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts. All food carries levy to support the women's centre next door (see WOMEN) and proposed school at 5 Cazenove Road.

## Men

**DALSTON MEN'S GROUP**  
Contact Pete, 39 Parkhome Road, E8. Tel. 249 3072.

**EAST LONDON/BRIXTON MEN'S GROUP**  
Contact Paul, 12 Montague Road, E8. Tel. 254 9497.

**EAST LONDON MEN'S CENTRE**  
19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

## Music and Broadcasts

**ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP**  
Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free.  
The Florence, Florence Street, N1.

**HACKNEY HOSPITAL RADIO**  
Programme schedule:  
Mon-Fri 7pm-9pm Pop Show  
9pm-11pm Easy Listening Show  
Sunday 1pm-5pm Pop Shows  
5pm-7pm Soul Show  
7pm-10pm Sunday Supplement (local and international news, "In Bed with a Book", funnies and music.)

Hackney Radio Roadshow disco unit. Contact Bob Kingsley 539 6235 or Hackney Hospital Radio, 985 5555 ext 115.

## Children

**HACKNEY UNDER FIVES**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8.  
Tel. 254 9145.  
Information and support for parents with children below school age. Contact Madge Harte. Stores are available every Saturday from 10am-12.30pm. Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every month at 8pm. in Centerprise.

**HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8.  
Tel. 254 9145.  
Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Cheryl Broadway or Mo Ross.

**CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE**  
112b Forest Road E8.  
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting—with creche.

## Transport



**HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE**  
Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9.  
Tel. 986 2303.

**HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP**  
Fighting for cycle tracks and better provisions for cyclists. Contact Michael Ellman, 21 Arlington Square, N1. Tel. 226 1887.

## Gays

**EAST LONDON FAGGOTS**  
Collective of gay socialists living and working in East London. Contact 19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

**GAY SWITCHBOARD**  
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

**EAST LONDON CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality)**  
East London CHE welcomes gay women and men. For details phone John, 504 1110 or Kate, 539 2331.

**GEMMA**  
Gemma Group for Disabled Lesbians, including older women. Contact BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX..

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit-making newspaper produced for the people of Hackney by a group of people who live in Hackney. We have no editor, no shareholders, no commercial advertising and no party political backing. HPP is YOUR paper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to help us. No-one gets paid by the paper and all decisions are made collectively. You can tell us what you think about the paper or volunteer to help us write, produce or sell the next issue at a meeting to be held on

Friday 21st July  
at 8pm in Centerprise

Or you can contact us by writing to us c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8. Or ring 249 0311 (evenings and weekends only.)

HPP is sold through various newsagents and other outlets throughout Hackney. If you think your newsagent would like to sell it, then please contact us. If you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading it, and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

# subscribe

to Hackney People's Press and make sure you get your copy every month. Only £1.70 for ten issues - delivery guaranteed! Please make cheque/PO payable to Hackney People's Press and send it to us, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



The theme of this years Hackney Marsh Fun Festival is the Hackney Marsh Picture show, reflecting the wonderful world of motion pictures. The festival begins with the Picture Show Carnival Parade with decorated floats and marching groups and individuals in costume. The carnival will begin by winding its way through the streets of Homerton and back to the Festival site on Daubeney Fields, where the judging will take place. During the rest of Saturday and Sunday

a spectacular range of movieland fun will be taking place. Events include clown wars, camel racing (real live camels!), wild west display, firework display, Horror Tea House, fairground, stalls and sideshows (including one from Hackney People's Press), exhibitions, pop concert, real ale bar, Ben Hur pram race, competitions, crazy games, film shows, dance and a cast of thousands. The whole festival is being produced in 3-D Daubenscope.

**SATURDAY 15 JULY**

- 12.00 All floats assembled in Kingsmead Way
- 12.30 Parade begins
- 3.00 Onwards - stalls and sideshows from Centerprise, Hackney Communist Party, Hackney Conservatives, Ananda Marga, Off Centre, Hackney Marsh Adventure Playground, Kingsmead TA, Hackney Housing Federation, Alf and Kathy, Upton House, Clapton Park Girls School, Hackney Marsh Fun Festival T shirt and balloon stall, Hackney Marsh Truancy Scheme, Nye Bevan, Rainbow Caterers, Hassan, Chats Palace, Albany Pottery Stall, 55 Daubeney Road, Hackney Peoples Press, Monsal and Nedleston Court, St Paul's Church, CAMRA. Sideshows: Hackney Marsh Fun Festival, Horror Tea House, Metal Box Cartoon Show, Eddie Smith's Amusements, Free Form inflatables.

3.00 Onwards Live Performers: THUD, Cunning Stunts, Free Form Road Show

3.30 Debeauvoir Debonettes

4.00 'Bitter Justice' - a Wild West shoot-out by the Remuda Wild West Show

8.00 Cabaret

**Music During the Day**

- 3.00 Disco  
Playground disco - Ghetto hi-fi
- 3.30 Graham Humphries Jazz Band - Stalls area
- 3.30 Rick Lloyd
- 4.30 City Twilights Steel Band
- 6.00 Eric's Band
- 7.00 Survivors



**SUNDAY 16 JULY**

- 10.30 Under 15s five-a-side football - leaflet
- 11.00 Fancy dress competition - Di Maudling
- 12.30 Ben Hur Pram Race
- 1.00 Action Space Inflatables
- 2.00 Tang Soo Do Korean Karate
- 2.15 Darts Match and Pool Final
- 2.15 Church Service - Salvation Army Band
- 2.30 Arena Event - Racing Camels
- 3.30 Free Form Crazy Games
- 2.00 Stalls and Sideshows
- 2.00 Live Performers: Clown Wars - Sci-fi extravaganza, Bruce Lacey, Kaboodle
- 4.00 Tug of War
- 5.00 Karate
- 6.00 Prize giving

**Music During the Day**

- 1.00 Hackney Hospital Radio Disco  
Upton House Steel Band
- 2.00 Ghetto Hi-fi
- 3.30 Good Stuff
- 4.00 Alan Elsdon Band
- 6.00 Oxy and the Morons
- 7.00 Bloo Blo
- 8.00 Steel N' Skins
- 9.30 Free Form Hackneywood Firework Display

*see you  
there,  
folks!*



# round & about

The people of Hackney elected their new Council but weren't there when it met for the first time. There were three men on the door at the Town Hall on 24 May to ensure that only the faithful gained entrance. The ritual of the installation of Mayor was watched by a Council Chamber packed with invitees. Nor was the action much concerned with the people. Sam Cohen, newly chained

to his office, startled some observers when he asked the Chamber to stand and remember the Six Day War, lighting a prayer candle as the Council's first political act.

If the Council has swung to the left (as we said in our last issue) then it must be watched to ensure that it is no illusion. As the first debate unfolded, the Broad Left committed the Council to the Labour manifesto - the Old Guard talked of "socialism on the basis of unity"; but again observers were left wondering where that put the people of Hackney. These were the first of presumably many hours of wrangling among the Labour ranks.

The rhetorical enmity between the front bench and the lone Tory was lost when all retired upstairs for the annual Council standing. It was here that the faithful could really gather together and celebrate old times. To the vital rhythms of the Clissold Park School Steel Band they mingled knowledgeably, smiling over their £2 a head dinners. Noticeable in small clusters and the stairs down to the toilets was the Broad Left huddled together in the cold draught of conservative camaraderie. Their talk was animated, their youth and eagerness obvious. But will we, the people of Hackney, see change?



Recently a London photographic agency received a call from someone wanting photographs on injured policemen outside the Grunwick factory. Later the customer rang back saying that the pictures he had received were really not what he wanted - they weren't savage and brutal enough. He was told that the only other ones suitable were of the Lewisham demonstration against the National Front last August. These were sent off and the customer rang back saying that the latest batch of battered and bloody policemen were exactly what was wanted.

The customer was the advertising agency, Saatchi and Saatchi. A check through the list of their clients revealed that, unless they were going to be used for some witty Schweppes bitter bitter lemon lemon commercial, they must be destined for some future advertising spectacular starring the Conservative Party.

The Guardian



While supermarkets all over the country have been vying with each other to see who can cut prices fastest (or pretend to do so, at least) good old

Marks and Spencers have been blithely increasing its prices. According to M & S boss Sir Marcus Sieff this is called "upgrading". He also said "Our food business is very, very profitable, and it is a long time since it has been as buoyant as it is now. Food sales volume is up by more than 10% on a year ago, and we have not reduced our margins at all." Nice to know that someone is still able to make a tidy profit.

Sunday Times



Hitchikers should expect to be raped according to the California Court of Appeal. In a decision that has brought a storm of protest from the women's movement, the wise (male) judges said that a woman hitchiker who was raped after hitching a lift had "less concern for the consequences than the average female". Thus they acquitted the rapist. They went on to say that "under the circumstances it would not be unreasonable for a man in the position of the defendant here to believe that the female would consent to sexual realtions." Oh really?

News Release